ISSUE 23

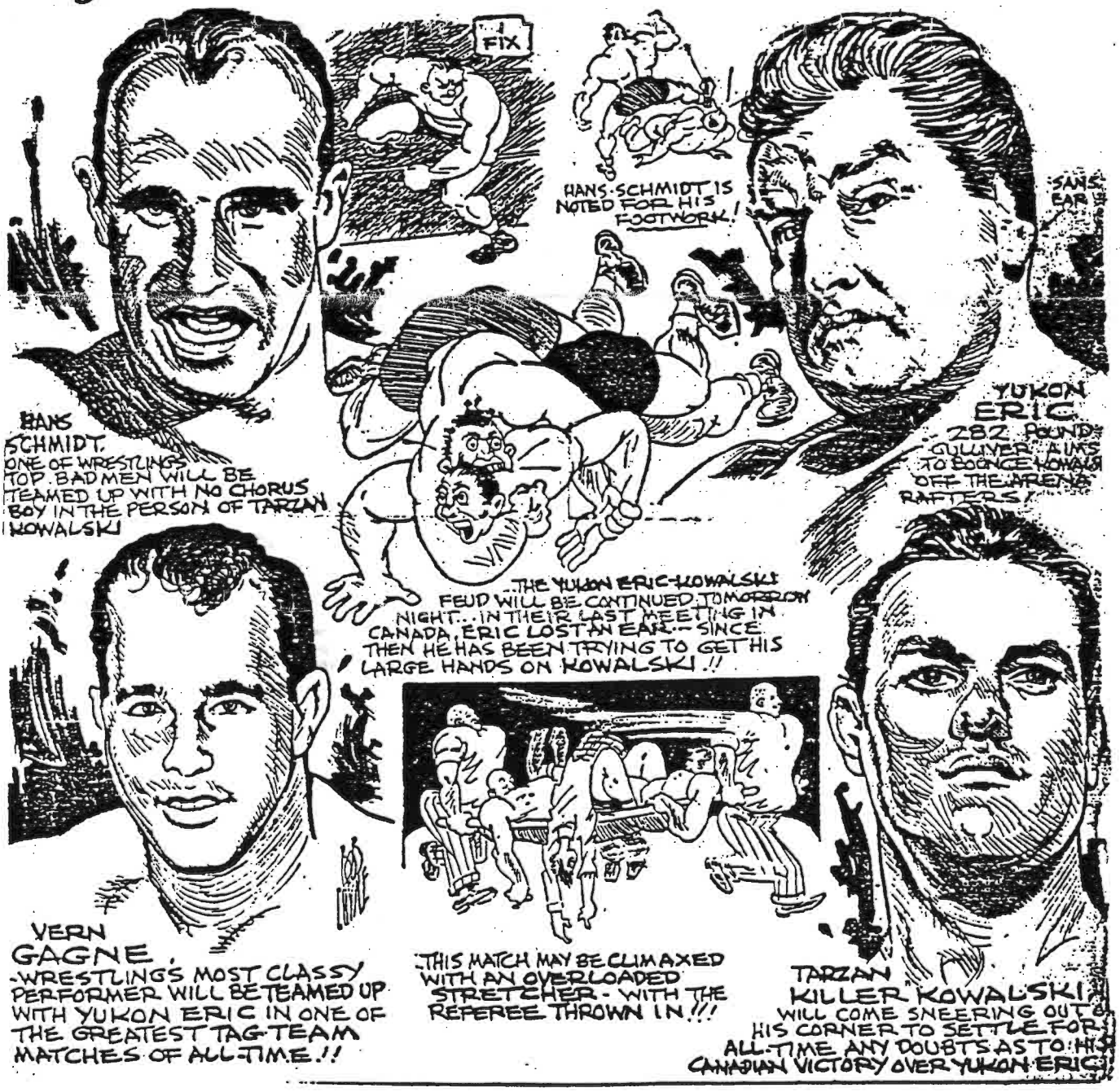
WRESTLING THEN & NOW

December 1991

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

Dec. 6, 1954

Mayhem in the Arena!


I FIX
HANS SCHMIDT IS NOTED FOR HIS FOOTWORK!
HANS SCHMIDT, ONE OF WRESTLINGS TOP BAD MEN WILL BE TEAMED UP WITH NO CHORUS BOY IN THE PERSON OF TARZAN KOWALSKI
YUKON ERIC 282 POUND GULLIVER AIMS TO BOUNCE KOWALSKI OFF THE ARENA RAFTERS!
..THE YUKON ERIC-KOWALSKI FEUD WILL BE CONTINUED TOMORROW NIGHT...IN THEIR LAST MEETING IN CANADA, ERIC LOST AN EAR--SINCE THEN HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET HIS LARGE HANDS ON KOWALSKI!!
VERN GAGNE, -WRESTLINGS MOST CLASSY PERFORMER WILL BE TEAMED UP WITH YUKON ERIC IN ONE OF THE GREATEST TAG-TEAM MATCHES OF ALL-TIME!!
:THIS MATCH MAY BE CLIMAXED WITH AN OVERLOADED STRETCHER - WITH THE REFEREE THROWN IN!!!
TARZAN "KILLER" KOWALSKI WILL COME SNEERING OUT OF HIS CORNER TO SETTLE FOR ALL-TIME ANY DOUBTS AS TO HIS CANADIAN VICTORY OVER YUKON ERIC!

Boston, Mass.

FROM: JASON CONLAN'S HEADBUTT

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THE EDITOR'S SPACE: BY EVAN GINZBURG

Since this is the December issue, let me start off by wishing everyone "Happy Holidays," and thank you all for your support this year. This sheet has experienced a steady growth, and I owe a tremendous debt to all my great contributors and readers. Next issue not only marks the beginning of a new year, but it's the beginning of WT&N's 3rd year. In this wacky world of rasslin' newsletters that's certainly a milestone of sorts (guess I'm politely saying that sheets drop like flies!). I'll try to make next issue a special one (actually I try to do that every issue but I'll work even harder!).

Just wanted to officially welcome aboard Don Gene Smith who has another great piece this issue. Don plans on being a regular contributor and I'm excited by his work and know you'll enjoy it as well.

As always, your feedback, clips, letters, contributions to any columns etc. are always welcome. Thanks also to those who have been kind enough to send wrestling autographs to yours truly. I really cherish them and am forever indebted.

Since I have this forum I always feel somehow obligated to turn my readers onto things I think they may (or may not) enjoy. Flicks for the WT&N gang: Pump Up The Volume, Scandal, and Queens Logic (blue collar meets Big Chill on my home turf of Queens, N.Y.!). In the "must to avoid" category, is Ken Wahl in The Taking Of Beverly Hills, a generic B-flick. Why this guy left Wiseguy, one of the finest shows in the history of television to make bad actioners is beyond my comprehension, and if you see this stiff you'll probably feel the same way. In the take it or leave department is the film Shout, featuring a James Dean wanabee meeting a pudgy John Travolta in one of those teen angst dramas you'll feel you've seen a thousand times. Some good music though. Speaking of hot sounds, caught Rufus & Carla Thomas, two of the legends of R&B. Awesome. Also, anybody who's getting St. Elsewhere reruns in their town shouldn't miss it. Tremendous...

That about does it for me. Please consider WT&N gift subscriptions or back issue packages for holiday presents! Help me keep this thing afloat! Also, if you send me a SASE with an address of a friend who you think would enjoy WT&N, I'll be glad to forward a freebie. Hopefully, we'll convert 'em...

Oh yeah. Just celebrated my 32nd birthday. What that means, of course, is that I remember a day when it was more exiting to watch wrestling than to read about it! Boardroom politics, steroid scandals, and all the other dirt is morbidly fascinating, but I'd sure as hell love to get back to those monthly (or even weekly) cards that rocked your socks and left you exhausted but happy! Seems like a lifetime ago, huh?

Enjoy the issue...

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IRON MIKE EINHORN- KANDA BONGO MAN

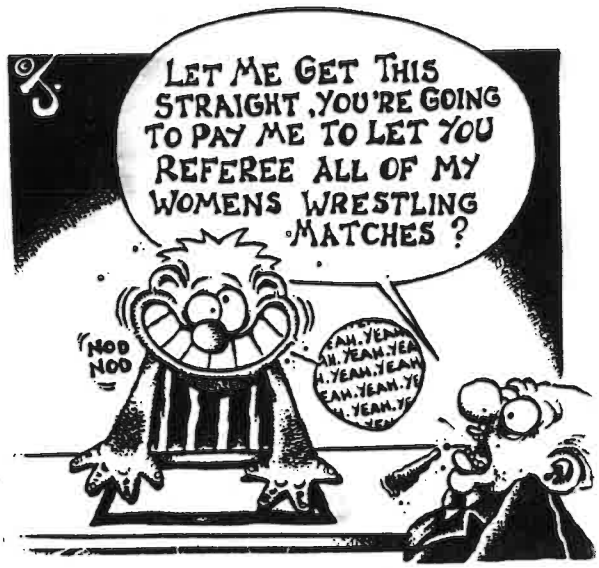
The WT&N readers are clamoring for more! Being a regular columnist is hard work...I went a few days without sleep--luckily I slept at night! Have you caught any of WCW lately? I haven't seen choreography that stiff since the Lee Harvey Oswald prison transfer...Having just turned 37, I can tell you life starts at 20!

Just wondering department- how come they changed the initials of WWWF to just WWF? Whatever became of Smasher Sloan? Who's the Black private dick who's the sex machine to all the chicks?

And now by overwhelming demand- Brain Teaser #2- match the wrestler with their locale...

Bobo Brazil	Outer Mongolia
Gorilla Monsoon	White Plains, N.Y.
Smasher Sloan	Benton Harbor, Michigan
Arnold Skaaland	Butte, Montana
Baron Scicluna	Detroit, Michigan
George Steele	Isle of Malta

Finally, in closing...remember there is someone out there for everyone- even if you need a pickaxe, a compass and night goggles to find them.


LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY ME TO LET YOU REFEREE ALL OF MY WOMENS WRESTLING MATCHES ?
NOD NOD
AH.YEAH
H.YEAH.YEA
H.YEAH.YEAH
EAH.YEAH.YE
H.YEAH.YE

GREAT MOMENTS IN WRESTLING FANDOM (A.K.A. "THOSE CRAZY FANS!")

FROM ANTHONY PERTICARO HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.

I'm writing to share with you one of the weirdest 'raslin experiences I've ever witnessed. It deals with a fight between a deranged man and an old woman. This all happened on the undercard of the first NWA Philly card I attended (The main event was the bloody Tully Blanchard vs. Dusty Rhodes barbed wire match and the PHENOMENAL, AMAZING, one hour draw between Flair & T.A.). The match going on was a Texas Death Match between Ole Anderson and Thunderbolt Patterson. During the match a guy was cheering for T-Bolt and an old lady in another row was cheering for Ole. They got into a bit of an argument and the old lady screams she'll bet the guy $50 Ole will win (intelligence was on vacation for this lady). Anyhow, all through the match, whenever T-Bolt would hit Anderson the guy would turn to the elderly woman and scream HAHAHAHAHA! The woman kept silent. With his foot on the ropes, Ole pins Patterson. The old lady jumps out of her seat screaming she wants her fifty bucks. Then, the ref reverses the decision (he caught the foot on the ropes). Then, Patterson pins Ole with HIS feet on the ropes. The guy in the stands goes nuts and screams he wants his $50. Then, the lady (she had to be over 60!) screams because it wasn't a clean pin and she's not going to pay. The guy charges from his seat and grabs the old lady's purse!!! She then took a swing and decked him, but he still held on to the purse. He then shoved the lady off her chair, grabbed the purse and ran out of the building!

I thought I'd seen/heard it all, but a teacher at my old high school once told me a story about an even weirder old lady. My old teacher never missed the old WWWF tv tapings in Allentown, PA. in the early 70's. He recalled an old woman whom he described as "One of them Ivan Putski groupies" who sat ringside and used to yell "Do you want to see some male panty hose?" She then would drop her overcoat to reveal she was wearing nothing but panty hose and a strap on DILDO! SHE WOULD RUN UP THE AISLES WITH IT!

This teacher also recalled a really funny incident although he couldn't remember who the participants were. For the uninformed, the old tv tapings were done in marathon 4 hour sessions and later edited into 4 separate tv shows. In doing this, the shows tried to appear as if a week had passed between them. Once a wrestler came out and challenged another wrestler, the other wrestler came out later to accept the challenge, then he got blindsided by wrestler number 1 and was stretchered out. Then wrestler #1 comes out and says he ended #2's career; a half hour later #1 comes out with his leg in a cast and says that when he gets better he's going to clobber #2. Another half an hour goes by and he comes out without crutches and attacks number 2 saying he's back 100%! With this, boneheads at ringside were saying stuff like "Wow, that guy's got some great recuperative power!"

NEXT ISSUE'S "GREAT MOMENT IN WRESTLING FANDOM": READER MARK MARKLEY INTERFERES IN AN ANGELO MOSCA MATCH!

WHY I ALWAYS ROOT FOR THE BAD GUYS

by Vic Stanley

If the basic premise of wrestling is rulebreaker vs fan favorite, give me the bad guys every time! Being nice is boring. I choose to live vicariously through the criminal activities of the ring villains. They get away with antics that I would not dare attempt, although sometimes I would love to. They say what is really on their minds rather than catering to the whims of the crowd.

Wrestlers like Lex Luger who have occasionally been portrayed as fan favorites seem uncomfortable in this role. As a hero, he had to be restrained, gallant and chivalrous, and had to kiss up to the fans when he obviously didn't want to. He makes a much better villain and will always be Horsemen to me. Now that he has turned bad again, he can go back to being his own rotten self and regain his self respect.

While the villains make ominous references to acts of grisly retribution, gruesome tortures and the biblical apocalypse, the good guys are reminding the kids to take their vitamins and say their prayers. Who would you rather have on your side in a streetfight? Rulebreakers are allowed the freedom to tell the fans to shut up and occasionally even take a swat at them. The fans would be disappointed if they didn't. Where else can you get paid big money for being a sociopathic malcontent?

Rulebreaker champions are much better role models for the kids than some mealy mouthed fan favorite. Who would you rather have your kids grow up to emulate - 'Nature Boy' Ric Flair or Bumbling Bob Backlund? I feel that the Iron Sheik was possibly the greatest WWF champion of all time. Sure his reign lasted only one month, but it is quality rather than quantity that is important, and he did beat 'Howdy Doody' Backlund fair and square 1-2-3 in the middle of the ring. As for the Sheik's loss to the Huckster, I feel that the fix was in on this one. Many other fans that I have spoken with concur that the outcome of this match seemed pre-determined. The bulk of Hogan's previous glory was attained in the AWA, where he was eventually run out of town by the incomparable Nick Bockwinkel - the greatest AWA champion of all time. Another reason that the Huckster left the AWA was to remain forever close to Pretty Boy Bobby Heenan, who was always remain a hero, a mentor and a role model. To this day, Hogan has been unable and unwilling to free himself from Heenan's apron strings. Without the Brain, Hogan is nothing but a spineless panty-waist with a glistening rivulet of yellow chicken fat running down his back. It is a truly wise parent who would wish nothing more for his or her children than to have them grow up to be like Bobby Heenan.

The greatest heel tag team of all time was Ken (Lawrence of Arabia) Patera and Masa (Mr. Torture) Saito, managed by the insidious Sheik Adnon El Kaissie. 'The money, the power, the prestige' is what they were after, not the cheers of the naive adolescent fans. Not only were they vicious in the ring, but they were also brutal on inanimate objects such as McDonalds restaurants and Holiday Inns. It took 12 cops and a circuit court judge in Waukesha, Wi. to break up this legendary tag team. Their opponants were often Jumpin' Jim Brunzell and Greg 'Daddy Owns the Company' Gagne - The High Flyers; possibly the wimpiest tag team champions of all time. Sure Gagne could fly - he weighed only 130 lbs dripping wet, which was usually the case due to a chronic kidney ailment. Even today, while Patera is enjoying a flourishing career in high school gymnasiums across the country, Jumpin' Jim is reunited with his former tag team partner B. Brian Blair, another real wimp - with or without steroids.

In the case of wrestlers like the Ultimate Warrior, it is hard to tell if they are good or bad because they are incapable of coherent speech. He scares the little kids with his throbbing arteries and juiced up grimaces, but there is still a perverse fascination. Even a 4 year old knows that this guy is not normal. There are also certain wrestlers like El Gigante and P.N. News who the kids should be terrified of, but are actually liked in the same sense that kids love to be scared by horror movies. Kids may be drawn to the Frankenstein Monster or Freddy Kreuger, but they don't want to grow up to be like them.

The truly great role models like Larry Zybzysko, Stan Hansen, Lanny Poffo, Cactus Jack, Abdullah the Butcher and Johnny B. Badd have a tremendous responsibility to the kids of today to guide them into adulthood with the proper attitude in life. The slogan for the nineties should be: 'Win if you can, lose if you must, but in any event - cheat!' I rest my case!

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MIKE RODGERS' VANCOUVER 1970

1/5/70 VANCOUVER
MARK LEWIN & JOHNNY KOSTAS BEAT GENE KINISKI & LONNIE MAYNE, MOOSE MOROWSKI WON BATTLE ROYAL. JERRY LONDON BEAT BEAUREGARD DQ, TONY BORNE BEAT ERIC FROLICH, HARU SASAKI BEAT PADDY O'NEILL, MOOSE MOROWSKI BEAT TONY BORNE.

1/12/70 VANCOUVER
JOHN QUINN & BULLDOG BROWN BEAT DEAN HIGUCHI & STEVE BOLOS, MARK LEWIN BEAT MOOSE MOROWSKI, JERRY LONDON BEAT HARU SASAKI, ERIC FROLICH BEAT BUD RATELL, DANNO MCDONALD DREW PADDY O'NEILL.

1/19/70 VANCOUVER
DEAN HIGUCHI & STEVE BOLOS DREW JOHN QUINN & BULLDOG BROWN, GENE KINISKI BEAT JOHNNY KOSTAS, MARK LEWIN BEAT TOM ANDREWS, MOOSE MOROWSKI BEAT JERRY LONDON, ERIC FROLICH BEAT HARU SASAKI.

1/26/70 VANCOUVER
MARK LEWIN BEAT BULLDOG BROWN DQ, GENE KINISKI & ANGELO MOSCA DREW DEAN HIGUCHI & STEVE BOLOS, JOHN QUINN BEAT ERIC FROLICH, MOOSE MOROWSKI DREW WOODY FARMER, HARU SASAKI BEAT JERRY LONDON.

2/2/70 VANCOUVER
MARK LEWIN BEAT BULLDOG BROWN, GENE KINISKI BEAT DEAN HIGUCHI, JOHN QUINN DREW STEVE BOLOS. MOOSE MOROWSKI & HARU SASAKI BEAT WOODY FARMER & JERRY LONDON, ERIC FROLICH BEAT AL GOODWIN.

2/9/70 VANCOUVER
MARK LEWIN BEAT MOONDOG MAYNE TO BECOME FIRST PACIFIC COAST CHAMPION. JOHN QUINN & BULLDOG BROWN BEAT DEAN HIGUCHI & STEVE BOLOS TO WIN CANADIAN TAG TITLES. WOODY FARMER BEAT HARU SASAKI, MOOSE MOROWSKI BEAT AL GOODWIN, ERIC FROLICH DREW JACK BENCE.

2/16/70 VANCOUVER
MARK LEWIN BEAT BULLDOG BROWN DQ, GENE KINISKI & JOHN QUINN BEAT JOHN TOLOS & DEAN HIGUCHI. STEVE BOLOS BEAT MOOSEMOROWSKI, STEVEN LITTLE BEAR BEAT HARU SASAKI. WOODY FARMER BEAT JACK BENCE.

2/23/70 VANCOUVER
JOHN QUINN & BULLDOG BROWN BEAT MARK LEWIN & JOHN TOLOS DQ, DEAN HIGUCHI BEAT MOOSE MOROWSKI, STEVE BOLOS BEAT HARU SASAKI, JACK BENCE BEAT BUD RATTELL, ROY MCCLARTY DREW ERIC FROLICH.

PACIFIC COAST TITLE
MARK LEWIN 1ST CHAMPION

GENE KINISKI	4/13/70
DON LEO JONATHON	6/22/70
BULLDOG BROWN	10/9/70
DON LEO JONATHON	12/7/70
GENE KINISKI	12/28/70

CANADIAN TAG CHAMPS
DEAN HIGUCHI & STEVE BOLOS

JOHN QUINN & BULLDOG BROWN	2/9/70
DON LEO JONATHON & DUNCAN MCTAVISH	3/7/70
CHATTI YAKUCHI & YASU FUJI	10/12/70
DON LEO JONATHON & STEVEN LITTLE BEAR	11/9/70

1970 WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
GENE KINISKI CAPTURES THE HONOR BY HOLDING THE PACIFIC COAST TITLE ON 2 OCCASSIONS. HE BEAT SUCH WRESTLERS AS JOHN QUINN, DON LEO JONATHON, MAN MOUNTAIN MIKE, TEX MCKENZIE, BULLDOG BROWN, MARK LEWIN, STEVE BOLOS, DEAN HIGUCHI & JOHNNY KOSTAS.

1970 TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR
JOHN QUINN & BULLDOG BROWN CAPTURE THIS HONOR BY BEATING SUCH TEAMS AS DON LEO JONATHON & MARK LEWIN, TEX MCKENZIE & MARK LEWIN, DEAN HIGUCHI & STEVE BOLOS, GENE KINISKI & DEAN HIGUCHI, DON LEO JONATHON & DUNCAN MCTAVISH.

1. GENE KINISHI
2. JOHN QUINN
3. DON LEO JONATHON
4. BULLDOG BROWN
5. MARK LEWIN

1. JOHN QUINN & BULLDOG BROWN
2. GENE KINISKI & BULLDOG BROWN
3. STEVE BOLOS & DEAN HIGUCHI
4. DON LEO JONATHON & STEVEN LITTLE BEAR
5. MARK LEWIN & JOHNNY KOSTAS.

Mike Rodgers publishes RINGS AROUND THE NORTHWEST- great regional coverage for .50¢. 613 NE 178th St. Portland, OR. 97230. Also photos, results sheets etc...

Don Gene Smith's
THE MUCHNICK YEARS

When people ask me why I am so critical of contemporary professional wrestling, I usually explain that I grew up with Sam Muchnick's National Wrestling Alliance and his local St. Louis promotion, and that I continued to support that promotion as an adult. When you get used to caviar it is hard to be enthusiastic about garbage. Sam Muchnick's product was the wrestling equivalent of caviar. A former newspaper man, he was President of the National Wrestling Alliance for most of its long life, and while he was President it covered more territory than any other wrestling promotion in the world. The WWWF (now the highly hyped WWF of Vince McMahon Jr.) was considered by everyone, including Vince McMahon Sr., as a regional promotion whose champion took second place to that of the NWA. Mr. Muchnick successfully turned back Lou Thesz and his father for control of the St. Louis promotion in the 1940's and went on to satisfy wrestling fans with a quality product longer than anyone else in the business has ever done. Unlike most promoters, he never shied away from interviews with the legitimate press or anyone else. He was producing a quality product, he knew it, and he could and did answer everyone's questions and probes with dignity.

I began following the St. Louis promotion as a boy in the late 1950's. I continued to follow it enthusiastically until 1968 when I went off to the university and didn't have a television. I renewed my interest in pro wrestling in general and in the St. Louis promotion in particular after my graduation four years later. My wife and I held third row reserved seats at Kiel Auditorium from the late 1970's until Sam Muchnick's retirement.

No one could deny that St. Louis wrestling fans were among the best anywhere. They were loyal, and they came out in force for all of Mr. Muchnick's programs. Today, WCW can't draw flies in St. Louis, and in terms of popularity, the WWF doesn't compare either. Why? Obviously part of the answer lies in the changes pro wrestling underwent after Mr. Muchnick's retirement. With no local promotion, interest naturally dropped; but the answer lies deeper than that. The main reason St. Louis became a dead town for wrestling relates primarily to my caviar-garbage analogy. St. Louis fans knew what great wrestling was. Let me explain via examples:

1. Announcers: The St. Louis announcers were among the best of all time. They knew wrestling holds and they actually called the matches. While Joe Garagiola was one loved St. Louis announcer, the best of them all was Larry Matysik, Sam Muchnick's personal protege. Larry was soft-spoken, but he spoke softly with authority. He knew pro wrestling thoroughly and made constant references to the past, a technique that made fans feel they were participating in the growth of a great wrestling tradition. The current New York Yankees promotional phrase is "Any moment a great moment!" Greatness only exists in comparison to outstanding events of the past. When Yankee fans go to the stadium, they just might see a moment that will become part of that great tradition. Good marketing! Do current announcers and promoters do that? No way. The WWF, for example, has no past. Matysik made it clear that if a title changed hands fans would witness a great moment in a long tradition of greatness, a night that people would speak of for decades to come - a night that would appear forever on any list of major title changes. Now St. Louis fans don't care. The WWF draws the kids who don't have much sense of history, but everybody else stays home.
2. Feuds: Feuds were something special. They didn't occur often, but when they did, they carried impact. Today, when everyone on the program is involved in a feud, feuds mean little, and the marketing technique has little drawing power.
3. Matches: When Sam Muchnick booked matches they usually told stories. The matches could be "followed" because they made sense. Wrestlers would work on certain parts of their opponents' bodies and appear to have some kind of game plan for winning. The matches actually were the foundation of the promotion. People came to the shows because the matches were good, and in those days people wanted to see good matches. Today, the people who want good matches stay home because they know they will rarely see good matches. The ones who go today would not know a good match from a brick wall. In fact it is often difficult to distinguish most WWF wrestlers from a brick wall.
4. Interviews: St. Louis announcers rarely provided more than one interview in any one hour program. As is the case with feuds and turns, if fans see them constantly, they cease to have impact. Since the matches were the main draw, interviews were used as icing on the cake. Today, some promotions spend more time on interviews than they do on the matches themselves. Hype overcomes the product itself.
5. Angles and gimmicks: Sure, Sam Muchnick used angles and gimmicks, but the difference was that his were almost always realistic and believable. They would not come out of nowhere and defy the logic of everything preceeding them. For that reason, fans never felt that the promotion was playing them for idiots, and they were never tempted to lose interest as a result of gimmick-glut. In tune with Mr. Muchnick's avoidance of blatant gimmicks, he rarely used masked wrestlers, but when he did, the gimmick carried impact. Today promotions are top-heavy with stupid gimmicks, few of which carry impact.

In November of 1979 I wrote a letter of appreciation to Mr. Muchnick, telling him how my wife and I attended and enjoyed all his cards, and how I always rooted for the heels while she always rooted for the heroes. I also complimented him for bringing in certain wrestlers and requested a few that I would particularly like to see. Shortly afterward, I received the following reply: →

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you very much for your very kind letter to me of Nov. 24. It is very much appreciated.

I have been thinking of retiring for several years but my fellow promoters, some wrestlers and many fans have convinced me in changing my mind. At least now I hope to be around for at least another year, maybe two.

It will possibly be prudent to bring in some of the wrestlers you mentioned in the future. They are now appearing in various areas of the United States, Japan and other countries and at times difficult to sign for St. Louis, but we do the best we can as you probably know being such a long time wrestling fan.

Years ago when I worked for the late Tom Packs I came to Menard [a maximum security prison where I was teaching at that time - D.S.] for a visit with the late Ray Steele and the inmates appeared happy to see us.

It has been a pleasure, through the years, producing wrestling cards for the enjoyment of people like you and Mrs. Smith.

Thanking you again, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Sam Muchnick

Today, such a letter as I wrote to a major wrestling promoter would more than likely bring a merchandising catalogue and nothing else. In conclusion, I am critical of contemporary wrestling for the same reason many other fans are: I like a good product and want my intelligence and taste respected. Today that seems too much to ask.

LIVE- ON THE SPOT REPORT- LAWLER VS. KAUFMAN ON THE DAVID LETTERMAN SHOW

By Evan Ginzburg

Earlier this year comedian Andy Kaufman stepped into the ring with Continental Wrestling Association Southern Champion Jerry Lawler. After 6:50 Kaufman was lying injured after Lawler gave him two pile-drivers. Since this devastating hold is outlawed in Tennessee, the self-proclaimed "King of Wrestling" was disqualified, but Kaufman was the real loser he was carried out of the arena on a stretcher and later forced to wear a neck brace.

On July 27th both men appeared on NBC's David Letterman show. I was in the studio audience that day (the show is taped 5 p.m. New York time and shown 12:30 at night) and did not know what to expect from these two unusual individuals. What happened was quite a shock to even this veteran wrestling fan.

Lawler walked out and was startled by the chorus of boos that greeted him. Lawler is generally recongnized as a "good-guy" and this unusual reception set the stage for the bizarre events yet ahead. After discussing the match itself, Lawler remarked he heard "a smattering of boos" from the audience and that we misunderstood him since Kaufman antagonized him. After showing actual interviews with Kaufman which were used to promote the match (and which were utterly hilarious), Lawler most definitely did not get sympathy on this point as the audience laughed hysterically. Kaufman stated that he was just "playing a role" as a "bad guy" and didn't really mean it. It was obvious that this was true.

This led to lawler throwing insults at Kaufman and to Kaufman asking him for a personal apology for the injury (which Lawler claimed Kaufman was "milking for all the publicity he could get"). As things got heated the men just argued as Letterman looked on. Finally, Lawler slapped Andy in in the face which earned him jeers of "bully" and other insults from the unfriendly audience.

During the commercial break Kaufman looked as if he were about to cry and ran in and out of the studio. When the cameras began rolling again, however, Kaufman ran out and shouted every four letter word in the book at the calm Lawler. He then threw coffee at him. The crew as well as the crowd seemed startled by these events and after the comedian ran from Jerry, David Letterman said good-bye to his uncontrollable.. guests.

The Listening-Post

Georgianne Makropolous called me recently. When I hung up I was more than a little upset...

You see, Georgianne is one of the nicest people in wrestling fandom. Publisher of the Wrestling Chatterbox, and columnist in a variety of newstand magazines, I've known her for quite some time and am the better person for it. While some sheet editors jealousy guard their mailings lists or give reciprocal plugs in a most reserved and unenthusiastic (almost begrudging) manner, Georgianne is one person who will do ANYTHING for her fellow sheet editors, most of whom struggle at a financial loss. She also LOVES her readers and refers to them as Chatterbox "members"; it's like a big fraternity and she's the frat mom.

Thus when she told me of her pain, I felt it too.

Recently, Georgianne's dad died after a savage robbery and beating. It's a nightmare and fear that all New Yorkers and "urban jungle dwellers" live with each day. This 82 year old man lay 90% brain dead, his features distorted almost beyond recognition for several days before passing. When Georgianne spoke to me he was still alive, but there simply was no hope. Although putting up a strong front, her voice betrayed her pain, anger, and frustration as the animal who did this had yet to be apprehended. Ironically, her grandfather had met with a similar fate many years ago. That generations of a family are met with violent tragedies is a strong indictment of our society and its failures.

What most amazed me about the conversation, though, is that in spite of her grief, Georgianne was still, well, Georgianne. Sprinkled throughout the conversation were her suggestions on how she could help WT&N grow. Even at one of the most painful times of her life, she continued to be a giving, caring, person.

The failure of various wrestling fan organizations, and the countless inane sheet wars to some extent indicate that there are a variety of egos, jealousies and pettiness that is an unfortunate part of this side of the business. In such a world, it is amazing that I've not once heard anyone say a bad word about Georgianne Makropolous.

I hope you will try the Chatterbox. I'm not saying this because she is a friend. Nor am I saying it because she is a good person who's gone through some hard times. What I am saying is that this is a warm, fun newsletter that's written for and by the fans- sort of a pleasant throwback to the pre-hardcore news sheets. Chock full of clippings, results, contests, news and even nostalgia pages, it's a 24-30 page package that I believe WT&N readers will enjoy ($2 to 23-44 30th Drive Astoria, NY 11102). It's not a publication that's going to change the world, but it might make yours just a little bit brighter...

Meeting good people is one of the joys of doing a bulletin. Georgianne Makropolous is one such person...

READER PROFILE- JEFF COHEN

I am single and live in Nassau County for 13 years...A wrestling fan since 1984 explosion...co-founding member of "Piper's Vipers" fan club at Queens College...proud owner of over 200 hours of videotapes...Worked at January 1991 UWF indie show in West Islip and rode a limo with Brian Blair, Paul Orndorff and Steve Rey to the card...Rode back with the Herb Abrams and discussed the biz. Ironically, Herb saw right when NWA became WCW that massive changes were coming...Took ringside photos at April 1990 NWA card at Meadowlands, alongside Bill Apter, Dennis Brent and Jimmy Suzuki...Almost lost it when Abdullah & Cactus Jack started brawling at me one way while Norman and Kevin Sullivan closed in from the other...Jim Cornette was the highlight of the card...First live card: December 1984- Hogan vs. Studd at Meadowlands with the classic live Piper's Pit where he said to Salvatore Bellomo, "What are you doing here? I didn't order a pizza!" Fave wrestler- Barry Windham and Cactus Jack. Least fave- JYD. My substitute grandfathers: Ivan Koloff and John Tolos. Two of the nicest guys in the business. Ambition- to get my girlfriend Andrea to watch five minutes of a Jushin Liger Match...Occupation: Corporate Proofreader...I recently completed many wrestling questions for the Nickelodeon Game Show- "Get The Picture," which airs weeknights. They will be on episodes that start airing in September...Currently editing Fantasy Federation which will be laser-printed to keep up with the big boys!

INTERVIEW WITH 'EXOTIC' ADRIAN STREET

By: Billie Jessee

Q: Adrian, let's start this interview off by finding out where you were born.

A: I was born in the Royal Forest of Dean in England.

Q: Were you raised there?

A: Yes, in fact, my house was built in the year 1100.

Q: Tell our readers about your training and your early career.

A: I started wrestling professionally when I was 17 and I was also boxing professionally, at the time. The main thing that I learned about boxing that I wasn't very good at it but I was a very good wrestler. That's why I'm still doing it almost 20 years later.

Q: Going back to that time, tell us how you got your start in pro-wrestling.

A: The first match I ever had was against a guy called 'Gentleman' Jeff Morran back in London.

Q: Who would you credit with giving you your start in pro-wrestling?

A: I just kept banging away at promoters doors and things like that until they took notice of me, really. I give myself credit!

Q: Adrian, who trained you?

A: I trained myself.

Q: Would you give us the names of some of your toughest opponents?

A: Most of my toughest opponents, you might not of even heard of, they are Europeans, who I consider to be a lot tougher than Americans. But I would say that one of my toughest opponents in the states was Randy Savage because it took me 15 minutes to beat him and that's a long time for me.

Q: Adrian, what would you consider your finishing move?

A: Well, I do the 'Crucifix' as the pinfall, and I do quite a bit of submission wrestling which is a lot like the European style. You know, the Europeans know a lot more, actually, about wrestling than the Americans do. The Americans consult them an awfully lot about it, cause you can see them on tv. But while they are talking about it, the European wrestlers usually do it.

Q: Tell us how you feel about the independent promotions as oppossed to the major leagues?

A: I feel that a lot of the independent promotions have a lot of good talent and what I like about them is that they stick more to wrestling and not like the 'Tom and Jerry' stuff that you see on the WWF. The WWF has a lot of good talent, it's just that they've been given a lot of goofy gimmicks by the hierarchy there.

Q: Adrian, tell the fans what areas they can see you in.

A: I've been wrestling some in Kansas, in Nevada where Miss Linda and I are the World Mixed Tag Team champions.

Q: Tell us how you feel toward your fans.

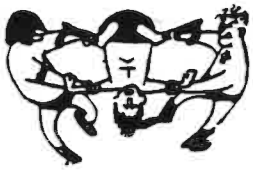
A: Well, in most parts of the country, the fans love us and in a few parts of the country, they don't. And I feel exactly toward my fans as they feel towards me.

Q: What titles have you held?

A: The first title I ever held, I was the Welsh Lightweight champion, when I was 17, then I became a middleweight. I was the European Middleweight champion, then I was the World Middleweight

UPCOMING INTERVIEWS:

SWEET DADDY SIKI
JOEL GOODHART
SLAMMER'S VERNE LANGDON
GEORGE SOUTH
ITALIAN STALLION
CHAMP THOMAS
DALE PIERCE



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EXOTIC ADRIAN & MISS LINDA FAN CLUB

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champion. Then, I had a tag partner called Bobby Barnes and we were called 'The Hells' Angels,' and we were the Europeon Tag Team champions. I've held the Europeon Heavyweight Title five times. I've never actually been defeated for the title. I know if you say you've held a title five times, one is likely to assume that you've had to lose it but actually I've abdicated the title each time that I've left the Europeon area. And I abdicated with the understanding that I get first crack at the title when I'm in the Europeon area again and that's how come I've won it five times. I've never lost it once.

Q: The fans are always interested in the personal side. Could you tell us what some of your interests are, outside of the ring?

A: Yes, I'm an artist, in actual fact, I've just had a one person show in the Estate Art Gallery in Pensacola, Florida. The people in charge of the gallery really like my art.

Q: What type of art do you do?

A: Mostly it is carousels, quite a lot of futuristic stuff and also red indians. I have commissioned to paint red indians on a carousel. I also have a one person show coming up in Muntsville, Ohio, on April 25,26,27,28 in the Gale Gooso, for about 5 days.

Q: We have heard that you and Linda are enviromentalists. Is that true?

A: Well, yes, as a matter of fact, Linda and I are enviromentalist and we are very strong anti-smokers and we are also against some of the things that are happening in our envirnment.Actually, Miss Linda and I have started a new business, concerning clean air and water, and are doing absolutely wonderful with it.

Q: What kind of music and entertainment do you like?

A: Well, I write and produce my own songs, you know we performed a lot of Rock and Roll as well as wrestling. I wrote Shake, Wrestle and Roll and it kind of tells the story of how I got into wrestling so if there are any aspiring wrestlers out there who want to know how I did it, they should get my book which is printed on pink pages. Also, I've written a screen play called Shake, Wrestle and Roll, and wrote all the music for the screen play, which is on my first album and my second album is called It's Naughty But It's Nice and they are both available on cassettes. We also have a 42 minute music video which is also called Shake, Wrestle and Roll.

Q: Are you and Miss Linda married?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you have any children?

A: I have 3 children by a former marriage.

Q: Would you like to tell us how old you are?

A: I was born in the Year of the Dragon, and I'm a Sagittarian and you can't get more exotic than a dragon.

Q.I understand that you have a fan club. Could you tell the fans where they can write to join?

A: Yes, they can write to The 'Exotic' Adrian Street Fan Club, Bizare Bazzar, PO Box 6188, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561.

Q: And what are the fees for the fan club?

A: A lifetime membership is $5.00, and get an 8 x 10 glossy photograph of myself and Miss Linda along with a pink membership card.

Q: Do you have anything else you'd like to add?

A: Yes, anyone that is interested in a career in the environment, can drop me their phone number at the above address.

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World Tag Team	Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito
World Junior Heavyweight	Tiger Mask
World Martial Arts	Antonio Inoki
World Americas Title	Rick and John Davidson
World L. A. Tag	Carlos Mata and "Kiss"
Inter-Continental	Pedro Morales
National Junior	Brady Howard
Ladies Champion	Fabulous Moolah
International Tag Team	The Hangmen and Stan Hansen
Light-Heavyweight	Perro Aguayo
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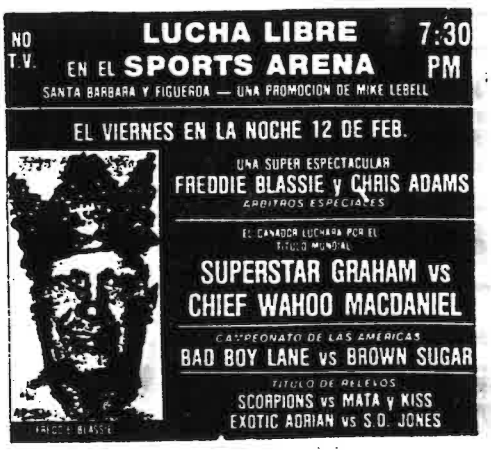
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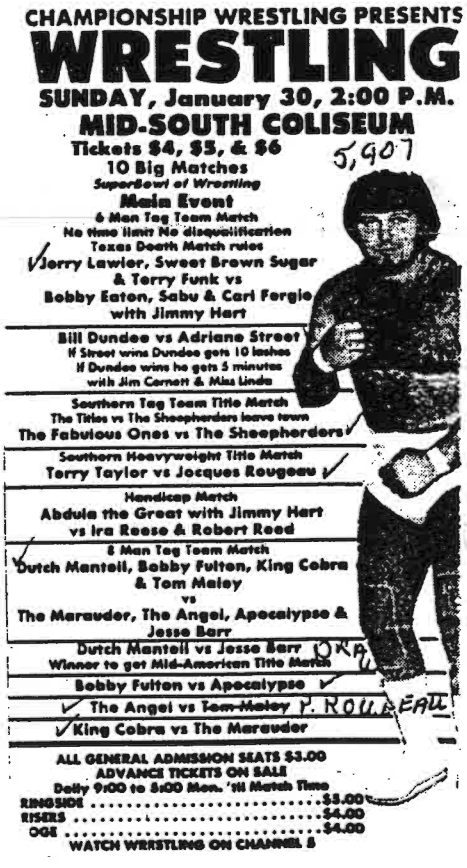
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OLD TIMERS AND NEW TIMERS

BY DR. MIKE LANO FOR WRESTLING T AND A(NOW)

For those of you "dying" to know what happened at our meeting with Vince McMahon, I was under the impression our group was going to either not say or write anything about it at all, or downplay it as Dave and Wade did. Several days later as I was on Larry Katz Baltimore Radio Wrestling Show, Larry got right into it and the following week, WON and Torch devoted some space to it. I would not agree with those who say it was a total lighthearted meeting. After several times of Vince asking the big two to share what they were whispering to each other, it felt like grade school. It felt like gradeschool with the joking and clowning about during our Tour before the Talk, and I may be totally wrong, but I thought that seemed out of place. The thing I couldn't do that I did feel right about was the digging and tough questions especially by Wade, and Dave. They set the tone right from the start so Vince knew he would not be able to pursuade the group to be compliant to his desires. The Muchnick's really would've set this tone still further, had they been there.

From the Goodhart show to the following week at my Dental Office in No. California, Abdullah and Cactus shared a wealth of gems. Once Abby learned Cactus and his fiance were coming out my way the following week after Goodhart to have dental work, he immediately said he'd be joining us. He, like The Sheik, has many missing teeth, and I guess swallows his junk food whole. Cactus, on the other hand, has no fillings, all wisdom teeth and great, great teeth. Abby is Dusty's best p.r. man, we debated and argued about how things are going with the NWA(whatever) and Abby believes with his heart, what Dusty has planned. I told them both things look better, and people are watching again p.f. (Post Flair departure) just to see what Abby & CJ are doing. Instead of billing the stupid house o' horrors 8 man, they should push a Cactus-Sting match for the ppv, and the posters and all. Why dilute Sting-Cactus/Abby with Cactus-Kazmaer before the former goes to fruition feels wrong- but if you ask Abby, he'll say "Dusty know when the time is right. He is the master, he knows how to slowly bring himself back into focus and do things one step at a time." Cactus' favs are cookies and pizza, Abby goes for good food- and plenty of it- and good to great cigars. Oldtimers who also go for cigars are Baba, Johnny Valiant, Buddy Rogers, maybe Thesz, Kiniski... while the younger breed-typified by Cactus- loves to watch tapes and perfect his craft. His right ear still bothers him from '86 when in his 2nd WWF tv taping against Dynamite Kid-DK popped his ear badly. While I believe, as oldtimers in the Japan method of paying your dues-scrubs set up the ring, get the shit beat out of them by oldtimers away from the crowd in training-basically a military boot camp existance--I cringe at the crap I've heard Dynamite has done to those in the green range. Besides being wrestling's 2nd prankster(Johnny Valentine-egged on by one Budro Rogers--Boobie and Budro-set standards that will never be equaled), Dynamite has turned off a lot of scrubs. Is he the first to say HE was the guy that walked in on Zenk and Martel??? Sheetsters- your hard-working editor, Evan, is truly one of the nicest guys I've met in the game. After a lifetime of memories on opposite costs- we finally met at Arezzi's great fan club Convention, this past August. A lot of hard work by the entire Arezzi family led to a wonderful time by all. Thanks John and Evan !

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MISSOURI 1969 BY: A. NONYMOUS

Recalling memories of Kiel Auditorium and where I saw my first wrestling show, I offer a look back at names and people from that time. There are, of course, hundreds who could be included, aside from Edouard Carpentier, Ronnnie Etchison, Harley Race, and The Bruiser. These others, listed below, stick more in my mind.

BOB GEIGEL

Hairy every place but on his head, this man was a forerunner to George Steele. He didn't win that often if I recall correctly and seemed to be used many times as a carpenter, or someone who loses in order to build up someone else. He looked a lot like Steele, only lighter and not so blatantly stupid with his nut gimmick. Later went into promoting.

COWBOY BOB ELLIS

Always wore black turnks with horseshoe embroidered in the back, as if hit by a mule. One of the most effective and underrated wrestlers of his time. Used the bulldog headlock to subdue opponents. After a lenghty midwester stay, he shifted to the southwest, where he owned race horses and property. Went from being a midway on the card wrestler in St. Louis to a "world champion" for an Arizona-New Mexico group.

GEORGE ABEL

I am deathly curious as to whatever became of this man. Announced in the late 60's and early 70's. I have heard little of him in any magazine or fanzine, although I remember how effective he was. He could have matched Solie as as a commentator. Wrestlers always liked to fall on his table and break it.

PRETTY BOY BOBBY HEENAN

A youthful and vocal manager for Blackjack Lanza, Heenan was much lighter then and was Pretty Boy rather than The Brain. Liked sequined jackets, especially this silly looking red one. He was green then, but had a mouth on him and that was what got him over as a heel. He did not learn to take bumps and those silly, outrageous falls, until much later in his career. Gossip was he and Guy Mitchell, aka Jerry Valiant were real life brothers behind the scenes.

IVAN KOLOFF

He was "The Russian Bear" even then, but a good deal heavier than now. Used the bearhug as his finishing hold and was usually kept in the preliminary matches. He did not stir up much interest in the NWA, but made a big splash ion the WWF, especially chosen as being the man to dethrone Bruno Sammartino as champion, although only momentarily, as a means for giving the belt to Pedro Morales.

PAT O'CONNER

Former world champion and top baby face in spite of age. Used the sleeper to win his matches. Was involved in a lenghty feud with Blackjack Lanza at one time. Many older fans still remembered his reigh as champion. Now deceased.

WHIPPER BILLY WATSON

Also billed as a former champion, Watson was on his way out at this time, yet still given wins. He must have had some pull with the old NWA office as they kept him around as somewhat of a status thing. Remember seeing him beat a jobber or two in less that a minute. Also passed away a few years ago, the victim of a heart attack, buut unlike O'Conner, was supposedly a physical wreck, his body ruined not only by multiple ring injuries, but also being struck by a car long ago.

LOU THESZ

Still another former champion and all around superstar. I distinctly remember his boston crab and his hammer and nail, the latter being a hold where he placed his elbow against the throat of his opponent, then hit it. Always dignified and always loved by the fans. He was always a big favorite here. The old man could really go too, if he was provoked, and stretchered more than one wiseguy who wouldn't go along with his desired routines. His reign ended in 1966. but many people were there at this time who recalled his longlasting reign as champ.

GENE KINISKI

I remember the hoopla over Dory Funk Jr. beating Kiniski and the clips shown on St. Louis tv of the spinning toe hold that garnered Dory his win. Kiniski, though, was often used as a babyface in St. Louis, rather than a heel. Always a rough-house type,

OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN BOTH LETTERS TO WT&N AND GUEST COLUMNS MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE THOSE SHARED BY THE EDITOR

Please renew my subscription to WT&N...

I enjoy the interviews and your looking back at different territories and wrestlers.

The WWWF 1971-1975 was my favorite era (my High School years). Always made late night Saturday nite WWWF-tv CH. 27 on UHF in nearby Worcester, Mass. following Roller Derby every Sat. nite for years. I miss late nite wrestling; most of the shows are now on Sat. mornings in this area with the rest of the cartoons. Used to get the Detroit shows for a very short time in this area. Also on CH. 27 early 70's. Where were the VCR's in those days? Local cable (Nick at Nite) recently brought back the old Superman tv show with George Reeves. Why can't anybody bring back tv wrestling from the 1960's or 1970's on video tape for fans? A few issues back in your Tolos issue he mentioned that they used to use the same tape every week and tape over it to save costs. Is that true for all promotions?

You can see just about any tv show you grew up watching as a kid except for wrestling: Honeymooners, Lucy, MASH, Gilligan's Island but not Gotch-Goulet vs. Curtis-Scicluna (best tv match I've seen as a child) for belts early 1972. Interviews were a big part of old tv shows- now they are totally lost on these event center segments. Could you do a segment on Early 70's WWWF stars, not big names- Beautiful Bobby (Harmon), Tarzan Tyler, Sonny King, Fred Curry, Mike Pappas, Olympico, and Mad Russians...

ANTHONY PARILLO
PROV., R.I.

I'm hoping to see some occasional mention of the great gimmicks (and not so great) wrestlers of the past. I've always been interested in the stranger ones like The Mummy, Batman and Robin (does anyone know who Robin was?) and the first wrestler I remember seeing- Spaceman Frank Hickey.

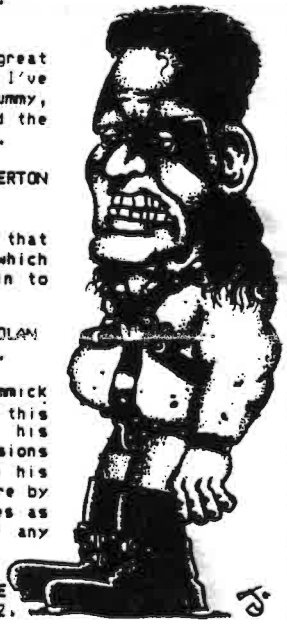
BRIAN YELVERTON
SALEM, MA.

The current state of wrestling is so disastrous that it's not even funny. Herd must go as soon as possible (which no doubt will be by December), but will any fans remain to see the wrestling?

Continue the great work....

VINNIE CAROLAN
BOSTON, MA.

The statement by Dave Meltzer that the masked gimmick is dead is one of the stupidest of many presumptions this man has made over the years, exceeded only by his explanation- because fans can't see the facial expressions of the wrestlers! Once again, Meltzer amazes me with his self-proclaimed expert status and I am only baffled more by the reasoning of those who swallow everything he states as gospel, when he is not a booker, worker, or part of any promotion.



DALE PIERCE
PHOENIX, AZ.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Dale is referring to Steve Yohe's epic letter in issue #19 in which he refers to Dave Meltzer's observations on the subject of masked wrestlers- he obviously disagrees! E.G.).

I live in Tacoma and wrestle in the Northwest, California, Canada and Hawaii. We're in Tacoma because my wife is in the Air Force, but both of us are from Pennsylvania and were big marks for the WWWF. I remember hitch-hinking over 90 miles to Hamburg, Pa. to see the TV tapings. Myself, my dad and his work buddies go to the matches in Philly, Baltimore, Washington, even New York on a regular basis. Both my wife's father and mine would be at the monthly Harrisburg, PA matches no matter what the weather.

JOHN A KECK
TACOMA, WA.

This weekend I read all the back issues of WT&N. I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed your newsletter. I think the format you've developed is just right; a good blend of clippings, articles, interviews, and photos. I m a subscriber to both the Observer and Torch, and find WT&N to be an excellent compliment to them as it puts things in a historical context (Editor's Notes- now if you can only somehow persuade ALL of Dave's readers to subscribe to WT&N I'd be on a roll!- E.G.). I just wanted to take this time to congratulate you and your contributors on the excellent newsletter you put out.

CLIFF BRENNER
DOBBS FERRY, NY

Evan, each issue is a pleasure to read.

I really appreciate the fact that you are jamming as much information as possible.

I've enclosed some copies of newspaper clippings...I'll be digging for more...also starting up a series of Sun Ra cards. Also, Evidence Music of Philadelphia is planning to re-release ten (!) Sun Ra CD's. The first five are due around Jan. 1992. Orignally issued on Ra's Saturn label, they'll have the same cover art plus new liner notes.

I'll keep you informed of this...and best wishes.

PETER HINDS
MILBRAE, CA.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Sun Ra is my favorite jazz musician and personality- he states that he is from another planet and when you hear some of his more avante-garde stuff you just might believe it. Peter is a drummer/percussionist and you can write to him about his critically acclaimed recordings or his excellent series of wrestling trading cards at OMNI SONIC- POB 786, Milbrae, CA 94030- E.G.).

Can you tell me why Blackjack Mulligan was imprisoned? He was one of my faves. Remember when he used to clawhold people and the big censored sign would cover people?

TONY PERTICARO
HEMPSTEAD, NY

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Old BJ alledgedly was printing up dollar bills in his basement and after a drunken binge mistook Lincoln, Washington, and Grant with Blackjack Lanza, Heenan and Crusher Lisowski. Authorities were initially befuddled when they saw the faces of the wrestlers on the bills, but he was nonetheless apprehended. E.G.).

I've really enjoyed some recent issues of WT&N. Articles by A. Nonymous on the ICW and Nick Gulas Nashville promotion were great reading. I would've liked to have read his views on Bob Roop and Bob Orton, Sr., two ICW wrestlers. What other issues (besides 18 or 21) have A. Nonymous or southern wrestling been featured?

BARRY ROSE
BAY HARBOR, FL.

(Editor's note: A. Nonymous is one of several pen names for a tremendous writer who has appeared in all but 4 issues of WT&N and has written on many different regions & time periods.)

I've been enjoying the issues of WT&N since my subscription began. I particularly appreciated Steve Yohe's list of WWA World titleholders since I try to keep lists on such things, even though I'm sure that somebody somewhere must have compiled about every championship history imaginable. Finding good wrestling historians has been a difficult task.

The interviews and regional summaries in WT&N have also been highlights for me, and since I feel like I've probably missed a lot of outstanding pieces, I've enlcosed $ for the back issues.

I'll be interested to see how WT&N develops. It sounds like you'd rather be a commentator than an archivist and you're finding that wrestling isn't inspiring your analyses these days. I'm more interested in an archivist than a commentator, so we may end up going in opposite directions. But there's no better source for wrestling history than Wrestling- Then & Now. Thanks for the good work.

GARY WILL
WATERLOO, ONT.

I'm glad you emphasize the past of pro wrestling, as today's wrestling scene is the pits for sure.

Sadly, after 25 years or more (I'm 40) of watching pro wrestling closely, especially here in the Southeast, I'm just about "burned out." I miss the "good old days", the 60's, the 70's, & the early & mid 80's. I mainly stick to my tapes from those times, & enjoy watching the past "glory days."

I used to write articles now and then for different bulletins, but I've stopped that now. I've been burned by various editors that went under. As of now, I only get the Torch and Wade does a good job with it, but I'm getting bored reading about all the "politics."

DAVE WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND, TENN

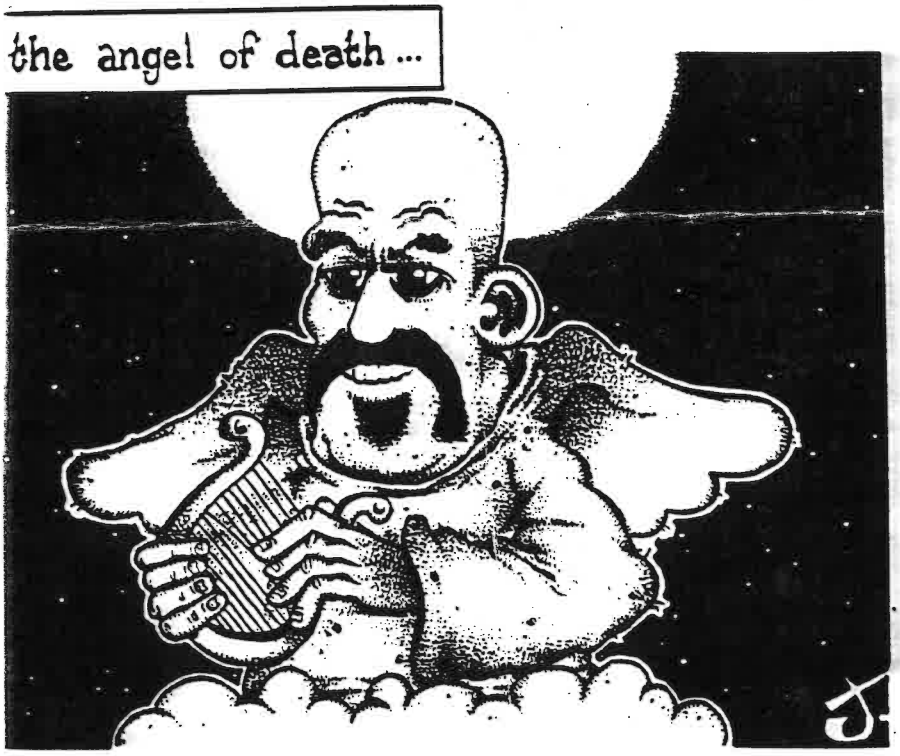
(EDITOR'S NOTE: David is a former WT&N reader. Part of the struggle in doing a nostalgia sheet is that the old fans are so disgruntled with today's scene they just drop out of fandom completely. E.G.).

WT&N'S ARTIST SPACE!

JASON CONLAN-- AUSTRALIA
BILL KUNKEL-- LAS VEGAS
WAYNE ST. WAYNE-- ST. LOUIS

WT&N ARTIST SELF-PROFILE!
Wayne St. Wayne (AKA Buddy Frankenstein: Canada 1980's and Dr. Blood- St. Louis indie 1990's).

WHOOOOOOOH!
WRESTLING FANS!!
YEAH, CUTHIN!
WE'RE THE BLOODY SHEEP--ERR, BUSHWHACKERS AND WE HATE, ERR, NO, WE LOVE THE BLOODY USA, MYTE!
HATE... LOVE...
BUCKWHEAT



who remembers ...

Killer Khan, 320 lbs of sheer terror from outer Mongolia (?). The guy who once busted Andre's leg, and then years later, returned under the watchful eye of Mr. Fuji, to make Hulk Hogan's life a misery. What, no one ?!? I always wondered whatever became of him...